

## **2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **on the activities of the Audit Committee of Stara Planina Hold Plc**

This report has been prepared on the basis of Art. 108, para. 1 item 8 and with reference to the next item 9 of the Independent Financial Audit Act (IFAA).

With reference to the provision of Art. 107, para. 7 of this Act, the Rules on the activity of the audit committee were adopted at a meeting of the Board of Directors and approved by the general meeting of shareholders.

The activities of the audit committee in the previous year were aimed at increasing the efficiency of the financial reporting processes, the internal control and the risk management systems in the company.

The following specific tasks have been completed during the year:

A review of the independence of the statutory auditor Katya Zlatareva was performed in accordance with the regulatory requirements. The Audit Committee found that the statutory auditor meets the criteria for independence from Stara Planina Hold Plc.

The statutory auditor reported to the Audit Committee on the main issues related to the implementation of the audit. Information on other services outside the audit provided by the auditor was received. The Audit Committee found that no other services were provided outside the audit contract.

The members of the audit committee held consultative meetings with the chief accountant of the holding. The Audit Committee found that the financial reporting processes in Stara Planina Hold Plc present the financial information in a reliable way and with the necessary comprehensiveness.

In 2023, the company has implemented an adequate accounting policy in accordance with the applicable International Accounting Standards (IAS) and the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and the information therein objectively reflects the operations and the financial standing of the company.

In compliance with the requirements of the Public Offering of Securities Act and other regulations governing the company's activities, accurate and comprehensive financial statements and financial notifications have been regularly prepared and disclosed to the media, the stock exchange and the supervisory authority.

The Audit Committee found that the management had identified the potential risks to which the company was exposed with regard to its activities. The impact of individual risks has been constantly monitored and actions have been taken to reduce them. The Board of Directors has adopted and applies internal rules for internal control and risk management.

The Audit Committee has monitored the independent audit of the annual financial statements and found that the procedure complied with the regulatory requirements.

In accordance with the requirements of the Accounting Act and the requirements of the Independent Financial Audit Act (IFAA), an independent financial audit was performed by the statutory auditor Katya Zlatareva, elected by the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders in 2023.

As a result of the monitoring of the independent financial audit process, the audit committee found that it was conducted lawfully in compliance with the Independent Financial Audit Act. The audit service provided by the registered auditor is qualified and objective, as a comprehensive audit of the company's activities has been performed and the report has been prepared in accordance with the regulatory requirements.

Pursuant to Art. 108, para. 1, item 6 of the Independent Financial Audit Act (IFAA), the Audit Committee issued a recommendation to the shareholders for election of an auditor for conducting an independent financial audit of the company for 2024.

This report was adopted on the basis of Art. 108, para. 1 item 8 and item 9 of the Independent Financial Audit Act (IFAA).

The annual report was adopted by the Audit Committee on March 29, 2024.

Chairman:



Boyko Hadjiatanasov

To the shareholders  
of Stara Planina Hold Plc

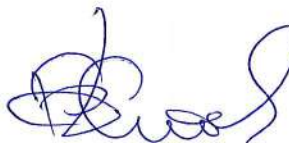
## RECOMMENDATION

On the grounds of art. 108, para. 1, item 6 of the Independent Financial Audit Act (IFAA) the Audit Committee recommend to the General Meeting of the Shareholders to elect for a fourth consecutive year the statutory auditor Katya Zlatareva, diploma № 0610 to conduct an independent financial audit of Stara Planina Hold Plc for the year 2024.

The Audit Committee received by Ph.D Katya Zlatareva a documented assessment pursuant to the requirements of Art. 6 of Regulation (EU) № 537/2014 on the specific requirements regarding the statutory audit of public-interest entities.

This recommendation is intended to renew the audit engagement and has not been influenced by a third party. The audit committee has not been imposed a clause of the type specified under Art. 16, §6 of Regulation (EU) № 537/2014 on the specific requirements for the statutory audit of public-interest entities.

Chairman of the Audit Committee:



Boyko Hadjiatanasov



# STARA PLANINA HOLD Plc

## Report

### on the activities of the Investor Relations Director in 2023

This Report includes information on the activities of the Investor Relations Director of Stara Planina Hold Plc in 2023 and has been prepared on the basis of and in accordance with the requirements of Art. 116e, para. 4 of the Public Offering of Securities Act. The Report presents the main aspects on which my work as an Investor Relations Director was focused, as well as the specific initiatives that have been taken in the implementation of the tasks set. The main framework of this Report is the work in fulfillment of the obligations under the Public Offering of Securities Act and the National Corporate Governance Code.

1. Achievement of effective relations between the Board of Directors of Stara Planina Hold Plc on the one hand and the shareholders of the holding company and persons interested in investing in the company, on the other hand, was a major priority in my work as the Investor Relations Director in 2023. An organization has been established in the company and the corporate policy for timely provision of information on its current financial and economic standing, as well as any other information to which shareholders, potential investors or other interested parties are entitled by law as such has been consistently applied. This leads to increased trust of these parties in the corporate governance of the company.

In 2023, the investor relations activity was guided by the basic principles of the National Corporate Governance Code, adopted by the Board of Directors of Stara Planina Hold Plc, as well as by the principles of professional conduct and communication with investors, financial media and analysts set in the Code of Ethics of the Association of Bulgarian Investor Relations Directors. The main principles adhered to by the corporate Board of the holding company and which are the basis of the Investor Relations Director's activities are shareholders' rights protection, ensuring equal treatment of all shareholders (including minority and foreign shareholders), observing the rights of the parties, interested in the management and sustainable development of the company and promoting cooperation with them.

2. In 2023 in my capacity of the Investor Relations Director, I participated in the discussion of statements on specific issues that directly or indirectly concern information disclosure and shareholders' rights in public companies. I clarify the rights of shareholders in the most detail on each occasion and especially to shareholders who do not have enough information and competence therefor. In 2023, I have processed 184 applications for dividend payment, providing detailed information to the relevant shareholder. In 2023, the practice shows that minority shareholders - individuals are mainly interested in their rights regarding transfer, acquisition and inheritance of shares as well as concerning dividend payment.

3. The website of Stara Planina Hold Plc, maintained by the Investor Relations Director, contains diverse and useful information for shareholders, investors and all stakeholders. It provides financial and non-financial information on the company's activities, publication of all financial statements, public notices and materials thereto, annual and interim reports on the activities of the Board of Directors, internal acts of the company, reports on the activities of the Investor Relations Director. Data on the members of the Board of Directors, the auditor performing an independent audit of the annual financial statements, the audit committee, the portfolio of Stara Planina Hold Plc and basic information on the companies in the Group of the holding company have been published. The website provides information in Bulgarian and English.

Stara Planina Hold Plc announces on a monthly basis and pursuant to the procedures provided by law its non-final financial results (on a consolidated basis) and the financial results of the most significant companies in the Group, as well as sales forecasts for the next month.

The website of Stara Planina Hold Plc provides shareholders with information on their rights, the dividend payment procedure by years, as well as on the procedure for transfer of their shares. The legal aspects of inheriting shares are explained. There is a possibility for feedback with each interested person through a Q&A window. This makes it possible to supplement the information on the Frequently Asked Questions page.

The company has prepared and keeps updated standard forms and samples of various documents used as needed by shareholders and stakeholders: power of attorney to participate in the

general meeting of shareholders in accordance with regulatory requirements, Internet-based form of application for dividend payment, power of attorney in terms of dividend payment, etc.

4. In my capacity of the Investor Relations Director, I take part in the preparation and holding of general meetings of shareholders and have responsibility to make all written materials on the agenda available to shareholders. The written materials for general meetings held in the last 10 years are published on the website of Stara Planina Hold Plc. Upon request, the materials for a convened general meeting are sent to each shareholder who wants to get acquainted with them and these materials are available to shareholders at the management address of the company. Whenever possible, the rights of shareholders in relation to their participation in the General Meeting are clarified, including the right to vote in decision-making, the right to include additional issues on the agenda, the right to ask holding's management questions, whether related to the agenda or not. The Articles of Association of the company provide for the possibility of exercising the right to vote at the General Meeting also through correspondence. In 2023 was held one regular annual general meeting of shareholders.

5. As an Investor Relations Director, I prepare the minutes of the Board of Directors' meetings and keep them. In 2022 the Board of Directors of Stara Planina Hold Plc held 17 meetings. All minutes accurately and completely reflect the information on the meetings held, the issues discussed and the decisions taken. I prepare and keep a diary of the meetings of the Board of Directors where I record in chronological order the date, time of opening and closing of the meeting, agenda and decisions taken, in a way that does not allow subsequent changes or additions therein.

6. I am responsible for timely disclosing all necessary reports and notifications to the Financial Supervision Commission, the Bulgarian Stock Exchange and the investment community through the media that the holding has contractual relations with. All statutory disclosures have been made on time. The information is also available on the holding's website

7. In my capacity of the Investor Relations Director, in 2023 I kept a register of reports and notifications sent to regulatory authorities, a register of requests received and materials provided to shareholders at the General Meeting and a register of requests and information provided by shareholders and investors.

8. Within my competence I take care of initiating new forms of mutual cooperation with non-governmental organizations and other institutions related to corporate governance in the country. In 2023 the activity of the National Corporate Governance Commission, of which Stara Planina Hold Plc is a member, and of the Association of Bulgarian Investor Relations Directors, of which I am a member, successfully continued. I have participated in seminars and trainings organized by this association, including as a lecturer in IR Junior Class training.

In the performance of my activity, I strive to maintain high standards in terms of information disclosure and communication with all persons interested in the management and activities of Stara Planina Hold Plc.

Investor Relations Director:



Sofia Argirova-Atanasova